

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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C O N F I D E N T I A L CAPE TOWN 0977

EXDIS

FOR THE SECRETARY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PDEV, SF, WA, US, UN
SUBJECT: MESSAGE FROM SECRETARY TO FOREIGN MINISTER BOTHA

REF: STATE 135795,

SUMMARY: I DELIVERED YOUR MESSAGE ON THE RECENT NAMIBIA TALKS TO BOTHA. HE REVIEWED HOW DECISION CAME ABOUT TO GO FOR AN ADMINISTRATOR-GENERAL TO SERVE AS THE CENTRAL ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY. HE HAS A SPECIFIC SUPREME COURT JUDGE IN MIND. HE INQUIRED ABOUT AHTISAARI AS POSSIBLE UN SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE. HE ASKED FOR MY HELP IN OBTAINING APPOINTMENT WITH DR. BRZEZINSKI. END SUMMARY.

1. I DELIVERED YOU MESSAGE TO FONMIN BOTHA THIS MORNING AT 10 AM (LOCAL TIME). THE WAS MOST APPROCIATIVE AND ASKED THAT I COMVEY HIS GRATITUDE TO YOU. WITH HIS BUDGET DEBATE COMING UP IN PARLIAMENT THIS AFTERNOON, I MADE NO EFFORT TO ENGAGE HIM IN CONVERSATION, BUT HE ASKED THAT I STAY TO DISCUSS NAMIBIA.

2. REFLECTING ON LAST WEEK'S NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE CONTACT GROUP, BOTHA SAID THAT A MAJOR BREAKTHROUGH HAD BEEN ACHIEVED IN GETTING THE TURNHALLE GROUP TO AGREE TO A CENTRAL ADMINISTR-
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ATIVE AUTHORITY (CAA) VESTED IN AN APOLITICAL ADMINISTRATOR-GENERAL RATHER THAN A HIGHLY POLITICAL ENTITY THAT WOULD HAVE INCLUDED TURNHALLE, SWAPO AND OTHERS. HE EXPLAINED THIS WAS MADE POSSIBLE BY THE TURNHALLE GROUP'S REFUSAL TO ACCEPT A CAA THAT WENT BEYOND 17 MEMBERS. WHEN THIS IMPASSE DEVELOPED, HE TALKED WITH DIRK MUDGE ABOUT ALTERNATIVES. FROM THIS CONVER-
SATION CAME THE IDEA OF REVERTING TO A SAG-APPOINTED ADMINISTRATOR-

GENERAL AS A SOLUTION THAT WOULD (A) MAKE IT EASIER TO HAVE A NEUTRAL CAA, AND (B) FREE THE TURNHALLE TO DEVOTE ITSELF TO CAMPAIGNING IN ELECTIONS FOR THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY. MUDGE WAS ABLE TO SEEL THIS TO THE OTHER TURNHALLE MEMBERS AT A MEETING WHICH WENT ON CONCURRENTLY WITH THE SAG-CONTACT GROUP TALKS LAST WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON (CAPE TOWN 931). IN RESPONSE TO MY QUESTION WHETHER HE ANTICIPATED THE TURNHALLE GROUP WOULD FORM A PARTY OR MOVEMENT TO CONTEST ELECTIONS, HE NOTED THAT THE SAG HAD URGED THEM TO DO THIS BUT THE WHITES WANTED NO RPT NO PART OF A MULTIRACIAL PARTY. HE DID NOT KNOW WHAT THE TURNHALLE WOULD END UP DOING. HE NOTED THAT SIX SWA REPRESENTATIVES IN SA PARLIAMENT CALLED HIM THIS MORNING AND ACCUSED HIM OF SELLING SWA DOWN THE RIVER.

3. BOTHA SAID NEXT BIG JOB AHEAD FOR HIM WAS COMING UP WITH THE CANDIDATE FOR ADMINISTRATOR-GENERAL. HE PREFERRED A SUPREME COURT JUDGE BECAUSE THEY ARE RESPECTED AND TRUSTED THROUGHOUT SOUTH AFRICA AS IMPARTIAL AND FAIR. THE ATTRIBUTES HE CONSIDERS IMPORTANT ARE: ANALYTICAL MIND, GOOD ADMINISTRATOR, POLITICALLY UNAFFILIATED, UNEMOTIONAL, KNOWS HOW TO GET ALONG WITH PEOPLE AND MAKE THEM WORK TOGETHER. I ASKED HIM IF HE HAD SOMEONE PARTICULAR IN MIND. HE SAID THE PERSON WHO MEETS ALL THESE QUALIFICATIONS IS SUPREME COURT JUDGE GERHARDUS VAN RHYN MULLER. BUT HE HAS ONE DRAWBACK: HE WAS ON THE TEAM THAT DEFENDED THE SAG CASE ON SWA BEFORE THE WORLD COURT. THIS WOULD PROBABLY MAKE HIM UNACCEPTABLE TO THE OUTSIDE WORLD. BOTHA NOTED THAT MULLER'S OBJECTIVITY IS FURTHER DEMONSTRATED BY THE FACT THAT HE PLAYED A LEADING ROLE IN THE SUPREME COURT'S RECENT REVERSAL OF THE CONVICTIONS (INCLUDING TWO DEATH SENTENCES)

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OF THE WINDHOEK FOUR (SEE PRETORIA 1285).

4. THE CONVERSATION NEXT TURNED TO THE PERSON UN-SYG WALDHEIM MIGHT APPOINT AS THE UN SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE. I TOLD HIM I HAD NO IDEA. REFERRING TO A SOUNDING TAKEN BY BRITISH MEMBERS OF THE CONTACT GROUP WITH HIM LAST WEEK, BOTHA ASKED WHAT I KNEW ABOUT NAMIBIA COMMISSIONER AHTISAARI. I SAID HE HAS A GOOD REPUTATION FOR COMPETENCE, FAIRNESS AND OBJECTIVITY. HIS PERFORMANCE AS COMMISSIONER FOR NAMIBIA SOR FAR WOULD SEEM TO BEAR THIS OUT. BOTHA WONDERED WHETHER AHTISAARI MIGHT BE WILLING TO DISASSOCIATE HIMSELF FROM HIS PRESENT POSITION FOR AWHILE. I NOTED THAT SHOULD THE SYG ADVANCE AHTISAARI'S NAME, I HOPED THAT HE WOULD NOT LOOK AT HIM ONLY IN TERMS OF SOUTH AFRICAN INTERNAL REACTION. AHTISAARI COULD PROVIDE VALUABLE LINKAGE TO THE UN SECRETARIAT AND THE COUNCIL OF NAMIBIA WHICH COULD HELP MAKE THE ARRANGEMENTS WHICH ARE EVENTUALLY WORKED OUT INTERNATIONALLY ACCEPTABLE. THIS WAS TO SOUTH AFRICA'S ADVANTAGE. HE THOUGHT THAT WAS WORTH KEEPING IN MIND.

5. I ASKED BOTHA WHETHER HE HAD ANY PLANS TO SEE WALDHEIM DURING HIS FORTHCOMING TRIP TO THE US. HE REPLIED THAT HE HAS A GOOD RELATIONSHIP WITH THE SYG AND IT PROBABLY WOULD BE USEFUL TO DO SO. (DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO ENCOURAGE HIM IN THIS.)

6. WITH REGARD TO HIS VISIT TO WASHINGTON, BOTHA SAID THAT HE HAD ASKED FOR MEETINGS WITH YOU AND DR. BRZEZINSKI. HE HAD RECEIVED AN APPOINTMENT WITH YOU, BUT NOTHING ON THE OTHER REQUEST. HE ATTACHED GREAT IMPORTANCE TO SEEING ANOTHER OF THE PRINCIPALS PRESENT AT THE MARCH 22 MEETING WITH PRESIDENT CARTER, "NOT BECAUSE OF LACK OF CONFIDENCE IN THE STATE DEPARTMENT, BUT BECAUSE OF THE VALUE OF SEEING AS MANY PEOPLE AS POSSIBLE, JUST AS IF YOU WERE TO ASK TO SEE ME AND THE PRIME MINISTER." I TOLD HIM I WOULD FORWARD HIS SPECIAL INTEREST. (COMMENT: MY VIEWS ON THIS REMAIN AS STATED IN CAPE TOWN 914.)BOWDLER

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